

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08064 141058Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
ACDA-12 MCT-01 IO-13 /090 W  
-----099343 141107Z /16-45

O 131413Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6598  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 8064

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EG IS PINS  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO TERRORIST RAID

REF: CAIRO 8046

SUMMARY: MARCH 13 PRESS COVERS FEDAYEEN RAID PROMINENTLY  
BUT WITHOUT PRAISE OR CONDEMNATION. EDITORIALS SAY RAID  
CHALLENGES ISRAELI SECURITY THEORIES AND DRAMATIZES  
PALESTINIAN ISSUE AS CORE OF PROBLEM. AHRAH PUTS RES-  
PONSIBILITY ON BEGIN'S POLICY OF OVERLOOKING FACTS  
INHERENT IN CONFLICT. PRIVATELY, EGYPTIANS CONDEMN  
LOSS OF LIFE AND VIEW RAID AS SERIOUS PERHAPS FATAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 08064 141058Z

BLOW TO SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. "FATAH HAS NOW MADE  
BEGIN'S JOB EASY" IN U.S. IS ANOTHER TYPICAL COMMENT.  
ALTHOUGH IT CLEARLY RECOGNIZED HERE THAT RAID DESIGNED  
TO OBSTRUCT PEACE PROCESS, EGYPTIANS APPARENTLY FEEL  
POWERLESS TO PREVENT IT FROM DOING JUST THAT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS MARCH 13 PROMINANTLY COVERS PALESTINIAN RAID

IN RELATIVELY NEUTRAL MANNER. ONLY AKHBAR BANNERS STORY SAYING 38 KILLED AND 82 WOUNDED. ALL PAPERS FEATURED PICTURE OF DESTROYED BUS. NO CONDEMNATORY ADJECTIVES USED, NOR IS RAID PRAISED.

2. EDITORIALS. AKHBAR NOTES THAT NO PEOPLE CAN LIVE SECURELY BY USURPING RIGHTS OF OTHERS. RAID CHALLENGES ISRAELI THEORIES OF SECURITY. HOWEVER VIOLENT RETAILIATION BY ISRAEL MAY BE, PAPER SAYS, NO PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT SOLVING CORE OF PROBLEM. LOGICAL STARTING POINT OUT OF VICIOUS CIRCLE OF RETALIATION IS CHANGE IN ISRAELI CONCEPT OF SECURITY, WHICH NOW BASED ON DENIAL OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS AND OCCUPATION OF WEST BANK AND GAZA. AL GUMHURIYYA PLAYS SAME THEME. IT CITES WEIZMAN STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROTECT ISRAEL'S BORDERS AGAINST SUCH RAIDS AND SAYS THIS STATEMENT UNDERMINES ISRAELI CLAIMS REGARDING SECURE BORDERS AND SETTLEMENTS. EDITORIAL ALSO NOTES THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SAID RAID UNDERLINES NECESSITY OF ACHIEVING PERMANENT PEACE IN ME. AHRAM EDITOR ALI HAMDI AL GAMAL MAKES SAME LINK BETWEEN ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND PREDICTS FEDAYEEN ACTIONS WILL DISAPPEAR IF PALESTINIANS REGAIN THEIR RIGHTS. GAMAL PUTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES OF LIFE IN TERRORIST OPERATION SQUARELY ON BEGIN FOR HIS POLICY WHICH "TRIES TO OVERLOOK THE FACTS INHERENT IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI CON-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 08064 141058Z

FLICT."

3. PRIVATELY, GOE OFFICIALS AND INTELLECTUALS HAVE AMBIVALENT FEELINGS ABOUT RAID. ON ONE HAND, THEY CONDEMN LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES AND VIEW IT AS A SERIOUS, PERHAPS FATAL BLOW TO SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. MOST BELIEVE RAID OBVIOUSLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH BEGIN VISIT TO U.S. WHICH WAS BEING VIEWED HERE AS CRUCIAL SHOWDOWN. AS ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL REMARKED, "FATAH HAS NOW MADE BEGIN'S JOB EASY." THEY FULLY EXPECT BEGIN TO EXPLOIT TO HILT TROPAGANDA VALUE OF TRAGEDY WITH U.S. PUBLIC AND TO GET ALL SUPPORT HE NEEDS FROM U.S. AN AHRAM EDITOR PREDICTED THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT NOW GET F-5E'S. ON OTHER HAND, SAME PERSONS WHO DEPLORE ATTACK ON HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL GROUNDS, INSIST THAT IT DEMONSTRATES NECESSITY OF PALESTINIANS BEING INCLUDED IN SETTLEMENT AND FALLACIOUSNESS OF ISRAELI QUEST FOR TOTAL SECURITY. THEY ALSO EXPRESS SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF DESPERATION THAT DRIVES PALESTINIANS TO ENGAGE IN TERRORISM AND PARTIALLY JUSTIFY IT BY ACCUSING ISRAELIS OF HAVING ENGAGED IN EQUALLY REPREHENSIBLE "TERRORIST" ACTIONS SUCH AS MASSIVE REPRISAL RAIDS

WHICH RESULTED IN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

4. COMMENT: IN SHORT, KNOWLEDGEABLE EGYPTIANS BELIEVE BIG LOSER WAS SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE AND WINNERS WERE THOSE OPPOSED TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, A CATEGORY IN WHICH MOST EGYPTIANS WOULD PUT MR. BEGIN. ALTHOUGH IT CLEARLY RECOGNIZED HERE THAT PURPOSE OF RAID WAS TO HINDER PEACE PROCESS BY CREATING BITTER REACTIONS THAT, IN FACT, HAVE EMERGED, EGYPTIANS FEEL POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAIRO08064  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780138-0719, D780111-1090  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780377/aaaacmqzq.tel  
**Line Count:** 125  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 6e5774c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 CAIRO 8046  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3356238  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EGYPTIAN REACTION TO TERRORIST RAID  
**TAGS:** PINS, SOPN, MOPS, EG, IS, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6e5774c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014